

**Introduced by Senator Beall
(Coauthor: Senator Hill)**

June 13, 2013

Senate Resolution No. 15—Relative to the Division of Ratepayer Advocates.

1 WHEREAS, The Division of Ratepayer Advocates represents
2 residential and small business customers of electricity, natural gas,
3 water, and communications investor-owned utilities for the purpose
4 of obtaining the lowest possible rates for utility customers
5 consistent with safe and reliable service; and
6 WHEREAS, The Division of Ratepayer Advocates was created
7 in the California Public Utilities Commission in 1984; and
8 WHEREAS, The Legislature recognized the Division of
9 Ratepayer Advocates in statute in 1996 to give the division
10 independence from the commission in order for the division to
11 carry out its role in advocating on behalf of public utility
12 customers; and
13 WHEREAS, In 2005, the Legislature expanded the charge of
14 the Division of Ratepayer Advocates to represent the interests of
15 customers in all significant proceedings and forums, rather than
16 just proceedings at the commission; and
17 WHEREAS, The Division of Ratepayer Advocates has 137
18 authorized positions, including economists, engineers, policy
19 analysts, auditors, and accountants, with expertise in regulatory
20 issues related to the electricity, natural gas, water, and
21 telecommunications industries in California; and
22 WHEREAS, The Division of Ratepayer Advocates saved
23 residential and small business customers nearly \$4 billion in 2012,

1 which was nearly \$153 for every dollar allocated to the division;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, In 2012, the Division of Ratepayer Advocates
4 participated in 176 commission proceedings and filed more than
5 600 pleadings to aid the commission in developing the record from
6 which commissioners formulated their final decisions; and

7 WHEREAS, The Division of Ratepayer Advocates provides
8 thoughtful analysis of pressing issues, including white papers on
9 the effect of time-variant pricing on small electric service
10 customers, energy utility service disconnections, effective smart
11 meter deployment, and a guide to California's renewable energy
12 policies and programs; and

13 WHEREAS, The Division of Ratepayer Advocates achieves its
14 statutory mission to represent and protect electricity, natural gas,
15 water, and communications investor-owned utility customers in
16 Sacramento by taking positions on bills, testifying in informational
17 and bill hearings, providing technical legislative and constituent
18 assistance, participating in working groups, and providing updates
19 on the actions of the division and of the commission; now,
20 therefore, be it

21 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That the Senate
22 hereby supports the Division of Ratepayer Advocates and the
23 substantial contributions it has made to the residents of California;
24 and be it further

25 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
26 this resolution to the Governor of California.